The Deplorable Condition of the Aſſignees of ſundry Goldſmiths, Entitled by the Letters-Patents of King *Charles* the Second, to Annual Sums out of the Hereditary Revenue of Exciſe.

WHEREAS his ſaid Majeſty being Indebted to Sir *Robert Vyner*, *Edward Backwell*, Eſq; and others, Goldſmiths, near Thirteen hundred thouſand Pounds, which he ſtopped in the *Exchequer*, in lieu thereof and to Enable them to pay their Debts, in *April* 1677. by his ſaid Majeſty's Letters-Patents were Granted to the ſaid Goldſmiths, reſpectively, Rents, or Annual Sums, after the Rate of Six Pounds *per Cent. per Annum*, to be paid Quarterly out of the Hereditary Revenue of Exciſe for ever, unleſs Payments ſhould be made of the Principal Money and the Arrears of ſuch Annual Sums.

The ſaid Letters-Patents were Printed by Order of his ſaid Majeſty in Council, for information of the ſaid Goldſmiths Creditors; and by the ſaid Patents were Granted, Directed and Appointed, that Tallies ſtruck for the ſaid Quarterly Payments, ſhould be preferable before any other Warrant, Order, or Direction of any after Date, excepting neceſſary Sums for Management of the ſaid Revenue, and 12209*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* *per Anum* to the then Queen Conſort, alſo 24000*l.* to the then Duke of *York*.

The Houſe of Peers were pleaſed on the 10th of *July* 1678. to paſs a Bill for confirming the ſaid Letters-Patents, but that Seſſion ſoon ending, the ſaid Bill was not Read in the Houſe of Commons.

All which Encouraged many of the Creditors of the ſaid Goldſmiths to deliver up their other Securities, and to take Aſſignments under the ſaid Letters-Patents of the ſaid Annual Sums for what was due to them, and for the ſaid Sums Tallies were ſtruck in the ſaid King's Reign, for Five years and a half, and no more; and by reaſon of ſlow Payments thereof, ſome of the Proprietors by Courſe of Law recovered their Money on the ſaid Tallies. Whereupon the Lords Commiſſioners of the Treaſury, by their Letters to the Officers of the Exchequer, did forbid their ſtriking more Tallies, without their particular Directions; which cauſed one of the Proprietors to bring his Petition before the Barons of the *Exchequer*; but before their giving Judgment, his ſaid Majeſty died, and his ſaid Suit abated.

In the Reign of K. *James* II. the ſaid Letters-Patents were ſo well approved of, that Tallies were ſtruck for three Quarterly Payments of the Arrears remaining in the former Reign, and the Lord Treaſurer, and after, the Lords Commiſſioners of the Treaſury, by their ſeveral Letters alſo forbid the Officers ſtriking Tallies without their particular Directions, whereby Payments were made to and for *Lady-Day*, 1683. and no longer, and the Proprietors durſt not then hazard their Title to the Cenſure of the Judges.

[1697]